



CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “RELIGION AND POLITICS”

The Cluster of Excellence has been investigating the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures since 2007. The 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences focus in the funding phase (2019 to 2025) on the “dynamics of tradition and innovation”. They analyze in transepochal studies ranging from antiquity to the present day the conditions and factors that make religion an engine of political and social change, with their focus being above all on the paradox that religions often develop their innovative potential precisely by drawing on their traditions. The research network is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one to deal with the issue of religion. It will receive funding of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

ORGANISATION

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

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Project A3-36 of the Cluster of Excellence: “Paganisations: Memorialised Paganism as an Element of Scandinavian and European Identities”

 @religionundpolitik |  @religionpolitik

www.religion-und-politik.de/en

VENUE AND REGISTRATION

Cluster of Excellence lecture theatre

Room JO 101 (1st floor)

Johannisstr. 4, 48143 Münster

We kindly ask for your registration until 21 June 2024 at:

skandinavistik@uni-muenster.de

Institut für
Skandinavistik

International Workshop of the Cluster of Excellence
and the Institute for Scandinavian Studies

POLITICS OF RELIGION IN MEDIEVAL SCANDINAVIA

(Non-)Christian Perspectives on the Past

25 June 2024



Copyright: Micha L. Rieser/ Stave church Urnes, carving: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datsei:Stave_church_Urnes_carving.jpg

(NON-)CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

Due to the comparatively late conversion of Scandinavia to Christendom around the turn of the first millennium, the local pagan past as well as the history of Christianisation came to play a crucial role in the negotiation of 'Nordic' identities throughout the Middle Ages and beyond. The workshop, connecting research in Scandinavian cultural history from Southern America, Scandinavia, and Germany, addresses effects and consequences of the specific connections to paganism in medieval Scandinavia. The contributions ask how religious difference is constructed and made relevant in history, with regard to both local communities whose descendants constitute the recipients of the texts and to 'others' whom members of the group had encountered. Tensions between orally transmitted collective memory, the learned Christian background of the medieval authors, and contemporary research paradigms are of special interest. The workshop thus aims at a better understanding of the socio-political implications of diachronic perspectives on the pagan past vs a Christian present.

PROGRAMME

08:30

Registration

08:45

Welcome /Introduction

Roland Scheel, Münster

09:00-09:50

(Re)thinking the Christianization of Iceland through Theory: The Possible Impact of Social Constructivism

Lukas Grzybowski, Londrina

09:50-10:40

Politics of Religion in a New Nation: The Case of the Icelandic goðar

Verena Höfig, München

10:40-11:10

Coffee

11:10-12:00

Religious Beliefs in Greenland through the Lens of Sagas

Annette Lassen, Reykjavík/København

12:00-12:50

Christianisation and the Norse Notions on Labour

Santiago Barreiro, Buenos Aires

12:50-13:50

Lunch

13:50-14:40

Perspectives from the 14th Century: Narratives on Christianisation in Bárðar saga Snæfellsáss

Simon Hauke, Münster

14:40-15:30

Heroic Deaths in Saga Settings: A Case of Paganisation?

Roland Scheel, Münster

15:30-16:00

Coffee

16:00-16:30

Concluding Discussion

